

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
IGA-02 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00 /041 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:MKLOSSON:ARCKC
APPROVED BY EA/ROC:BLEVIN
PM/SAS - J. NOTARGIACOMO .

-----271928Z 002629 /53

R 271846Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 311086

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, TW

SUBJECT: HELICOPTERS FOR THE ROC

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 211792
(B) TAIPEI 6375

1. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED A VARIETY OF REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL TO SELL HELICOPTERS TO THE ROC. BOEING HAS ASKED TO SELL 8-10 CH-47C CHINOOKS, SIKORSKY HAS INQUIRED ABOUT SALES OF S-61A (H-3) AND S-65 (H-53) TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS AND THE ROC HAS ASKED VIA DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO PURCHASE 24 CH 47C CHINOOKS, 32 BELL OH 58B LIGHT OBSERVATION HELICOPTERS, 12 BELL AH 1G HUEY COBRAS AND 20 HUGHES TH 55 PRIMARY TRAINER HELICOPTERS.

2. WE ARE NOT SYMPATHETIC TOWARD THIS BARRAGE OF REQUESTS. IN OUR VIEW, THE UH-1H HUEY COPRODUCTION PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDES THE ROC WITH 118 HELICOPTERS, BASICALLY MEETS ROC HELICOPTER NEEDS. ANY INCREASE IN THIS RATHER SUB-
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STANTIAL INVENTORY, PARTICULARLY INVOLVING INTRODUCTION OF HELIOCPTERS WITH SIGNIFICANT TROOP TRANSPORT CAPABILITIES IS BOUND TO ATTRACT UNHELPFUL ATTENTION AND SPECULATION. SOME MAY VIEW ROC INTEREST IN AN INCREASED AIR-LIFT CAPABILITY AS LINKED WITH WISHFUL HOPES FOR A

COLLAPSE IN PRC RULE AND AN ENSUING ROC ROLE ON THE MAINLAND. WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT ROC ASR OR TRANSPORTATION NEEDS MAKE THE RISK OF SUCH SPECULATION WORTH TAKING. OUR CONCERNS APPLY PRINCIPALLY TO THE CHINOOK, HUEY COBRA AND TWO SIKORSKY MODELS.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL LIGHT THE EMBASSY CAN SHED ON ROC HELICOPTER NEEDS AS WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CASES BEFORE US.
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE311086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MKLOSSON:ARCKC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760473-0196
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761212/aaaaakdj.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 211792, 77 TAIPEI 6375
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HELICOPTERS FOR THE ROC
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, US, TW
To: TAIPEI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006